



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Tuesday, June 5, 2007

CONTACT: Richard Mills or Dan Nelson

202-482-4883

Statement from U.S. Coordinator for International Intellectual Property Enforcement on the OECD Executive Summary of its Global Study on Counterfeiting and Piracy

WASHINGTON – Coordinator for International Intellectual Property Enforcement for the United States Chris Israel, today issued the following statement on the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) Executive Summary of its Global Study on Counterfeiting and Piracy.

“This OECD report represents a constructive step in understanding the magnitude and scope of counterfeiting and piracy that governments, industry and consumers are facing every day.

“According to the OECD, international trade in counterfeit and pirated tangible goods approached \$200 billion in 2005. While the size of this figure seems staggering, it represents only a preliminary assessment for a portion of the world’s economies. It does not include the significant value of counterfeit and pirated goods that are produced and consumed domestically, and it does not include digital goods that are transferred over the Internet.

“The OECD’s report notes that counterfeiting and piracy damage innovative industries, undermine creative endeavors, weaken investment, reduce jobs and opportunities for our citizens, reduce taxes that governments collect, and can endanger the health and safety of our citizens. I appreciate the work that the OECD has done to quantify this problem and echo their conclusion that much more work is needed to combat the scourge of counterfeiting and piracy.”

#